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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

REPORT

OF THE

Jamestown Ter-Centennial Commission

MADE TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AT ITS

JANUARY SESSION, 1906.

PROVIDENCE:

E. L. FREEMAN & SONS, STATE PRINTERS.

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R E P O R T .

To the Honorable the General Assembly:

The undersigned, appointed by His Excellency the Governor, a "Commission to arrange for the participation of the State of Rhode Island in the Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exposition" by virtue of a joint resolution passed April 21, 1905, and authorized thereby to "determine the manner in which the State of Rhode Island shall be represented at said exposition," and further required to "make recommendation to the next General Assembly as to the character and cost of making such representation of the State of Rhode Island at said exposition in such a manner as shall be in keeping with the dignity and honor of this State and the importance of the event to be commemorated," respectfully report:

That the Congress of the United States has inaugurated an international naval, marine, and military celebration to be held on and near the waters of Hampton Roads in the State of Virginia, beginning the 13th day of May, 1907, and ending not later than the first day of the following November, and that contemporaneously and in connection therewith an industrial and historical exposition is to be held on the shores of said Hampton roads by virtue of an act of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia, in which exposition the several States and Territories are invited to participate and to exhibit the part they have taken in the historical and material development of the United States.

That the fact to be commemorated is "the birth of the American nation, the first permanent settlement of English speaking people on the American continent, made at Jamestown, Virginia, on the

thirteenth day of May in the year 1607," and that the object of such commemoration is, as expressed in the preamble of the joint resolution of your honorable body, "that the great events of American history which have resulted therefrom may be accentuated to the future and present generations of American citizens."

It is obvious that this purpose can be best accomplished by an exhibition which shall be chiefly historical in its character, and which shall present in a concrete form the salient events showing the growth of the colony and of the State from that day of small things, when in 1636 Roger Williams with his five companions, poor in this world's goods, made the first settlement in the Providence Plantation, until the present time when the State possesses a population of almost a half million of inhabitants, whose taxable wealth exceeds four hundred million dollars, when more than one hundred millions of dollars belonging to almost two hundred thousand depositors are held by her savings banks and on participation account in the trust companies within her borders, when no State in the Union has a territory so densely populated, and when she is unsurpassed by any other State in the percentage of the total population employed in manufacturing and in the variety and importance of her products.

A brief consideration of other facts emphasizes and strengthens this view. In point of antiquity Rhode Island is almost coeval with Virginia. Less than thirty years had elapsed from the settlement of Jamestown, thus to be commemorated, when Roger Williams came to this place, and thus Rhode Island was among the earliest of the colonies to be settled by Englishmen and to be subjected to English rule. In addition to the charter granted to Virginia, charters had been granted prior to 1636 to the Plymouth colony and to Maryland, and a few English settlers had made their way to Connecticut, although no charter was granted to that colony until 1662. But an English patent was not granted for New York until 1664, William Penn was not born in 1636, John Locke, the author of the *Essay on the Human Understanding* and the framer of the first constitutions

for the Carolinas, was then a child of the age of four years, and a charter was not granted to Georgia for nearly a hundred years thereafter.

One hundred and thirty years have now elapsed since the Declaration of Independence and the beginning of our national existence. But the beginnings of Rhode Island go back one hundred and forty years before the Declaration of Independence, thus giving to Rhode Island a longer period of existence as a colony under English rule than has yet elapsed since she became an independent State. Few indeed are the States whose history joins together the present and the past and connects the institutions of to-day with the order of a bygone age as does the history of this State.

Our foundations were laid at the time when Charles I was King of England, and it was to this monarch that Canonicus and the chief Sachems of the Narragansetts in this colony soon made formal submission and pledged their allegiance and claimed his protection. The Court of Star Chamber, whose sessions Roger Williams had attended as a writer of shorthand, was still in existence; the Habeas Corpus Act did not receive the royal sanction until more than forty years later; the Bank of England and the British Museum were not in being, nor had Sir Christopher Wren yet rounded the dome of St. Paul's; the Pilgrim's Progress was as yet unwritten; the world still waited for Sir Isaac Newton to reveal the law of gravitation; and "Man's first disobedience and the forbidden fruit" had not yet inspired the majestic imagery of Paradise Lost. Richelieu then governed France and Le Grand Monarque had not ascended the throne; the Thirty Years' War was still raging, and the Peace of Westphalia, which for the first time recognized the principle of the balance of power among the Continental States, was yet to be concluded; Innocent X was not yet seated in the chair of St. Peter; Frederick the Great was not yet born, and Peter the Great was not to give his name to the Imperial City on the Neva for half a century; Gustavus Adolphus had just died, and Holland was successfully contending with England for the supremacy of the sea. In all the territory

comprised within the limits of the United States there was not a printing office or a newspaper or a post office. One of the earliest laws of the colony required, under a penalty, that instruction should be given in the use of the bow and arrow as weapons of offence and defence, and the benefit of clergy was claimed and allowed in our courts for more than a hundred years thereafter. Nearly a hundred years were to elapse before the birth of George Washington, and more than a hundred years were to pass before Benjamin Franklin was to "wrest the lightning from heaven and the sceptre from tyrants."

But it is not solely nor chiefly because of the comparative antiquity of its founding that an historical exhibition should be made of the development of Rhode Island. Her history is unique in several particulars. The absolute separation of church and State was here for the first time in history made the foundation stone of a civil government. It is first seen in the Civil Compact of 1637 (the original of which is still in existence) in these words: "We whose names are hereunder, desirous to inhabitt in the Towne of Providence, do promise to subject ourselves in active and passive obedience to all such orders or agreements as shall be made for publick good of ye body in an orderly way, by the major consent of the present Inhabitants, maisters of families incorporated together into a towne fellowship, and others whome they shall admitt unto them *only in civill things.*"

Here also is illustrated in concrete and organic form one of the earliest examples of a government founded upon a voluntary social contract.

The same idea is seen in the Parlimentary charter granted in 1643: "With full Power and Authority to rule themselves and Such others as shall hereafter inhabit within any Part of the said Tract of Land by such a form of *Civil* Government as by voluntary consent of all or the greater Part of them they shall find most suitable to their Estate and Condition; and for that End to make and ordain such *Civil* Laws and Constitutions, and to inflict such punishments upon

Transgressors, and for Execution thereof so to place and displace officers of Justice as they or the greater part of them shall by free consent agree to."

This charter limitation of the power of legislation to civil in contradistinction to religious concerns is exemplified in the Code of 1647, adopted when the provisions of this charter first became effective. Thus in one section it is provided: "Forasmuch as the consciences of sundry men truly conscienable may scruple the giving or the taking of an oath, and it would be nowise suitable to the nature and constitution of our place who profess ourselves to be men of different consciences and not one willing to force another, to debar such as cannot do so, either from bearing office among us or from giving in testimony in a case depending, be it enacted by the authority of this present Assembly that a solemn profession or testimony in a court of record or before a judge of record, shall be accounted throughout the whole colony of as full force as an oath."

And the solemn conclusion of that code is in these words: "These are the laws that concern all men, and these are the penalties for the transgression thereof, which by common consent are ratified and established throughout the whole colony; and otherwise than thus what is herein forbidden all men may walk as their consciences persuade them, every one in the name of his God. And let the Saints of the Most High walk in this colony without molestation, in the name of Jehovah their God, forever and ever."

The sentiment emblazoned above the portals of these walls, "to hold forth a lively experiment that a flourishing civil state may stand and be best maintained with full liberty in religious concernments," was most fully guaranteed in the charter granted by Charles II in 1663, the original still being preserved in the possession of the State. That unique instrument was thus described by the late Chief Justice Job Durfee, in an address before the General Assembly of his day: "Than that charter, no greater boon was ever conferred by mother country on colony, since time began. No grant ever more completely expressed the idea of a people. It at once guarantied our

ancestors soul-liberty and granted a law-making power, limited only by the desire of their Anglo-Saxon minds. It gave them the choice of every officer, from the commander-in-chief down to the humblest official. It gave to the State the power of peace and war. It made her a sovereignty under the protection, rather than the guardianship, of England's sovereign; so that the moment that protection was withdrawn, she stood independent and alone, competent to fight her own battles under her own shield."

How ample, indeed, were the powers of self-government thus conferred by this charter is shown by a reference to the official opinions of the attorney general and the solicitor general given to George II upon certain questions of which the following was the first: "Whether any act passed by the General Assembly of this Colony may be judged valid, the Governor having entered his dissent from it at the time it was voted?" Their reply was to the effect that not even the king possessed the veto power over legislation here. The crown officers say in their opinion (4 R. I. Col. Rec. 461): "In this charter no negative voice is given to the governor nor any power reserved to the Crown of approving or disapproving the laws to be made in this Colony." As to the question stated "whether His Majesty hath any power to repeal or make void the above mentioned act of Assembly, we humbly conceive that no provision being made for that purpose, the Crown hath no discretionary power of repealing laws made in this province."

But only twenty-five years before this opinion was given as to Rhode Island, Chief Justice Holt had asserted (Salkeld's Reports, 666) that "the laws of England do not extend to Virginia, being a conquered country their law is what the King pleases."

In later days this provision as to the separation of church and State is in substance found in that provision of the Constitution of the United States which declares that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" and in the provisions upon that subject now contained in the constitutions of every State in the Union.

The history of Rhode Island is unique also in that the Charter of Charles II granted in 1663 remained in force for one hundred and eighty years and until the adoption of the present constitution in 1842, being at the time of its abrogation the oldest constitutional charter in the world; and it is of interest to note that by the federal census of 1900 there were more than 19,000 of the native born inhabitants of the State still living who were born when the provisions of that charter were still in force.

Without dwelling upon the part which Rhode Island sustained in King Philip's War and the French and Indian and other wars, among the noteworthy acts in the history of Rhode Island under that charter in the revolutionary period these may be specified, in the words of the late Chief Justice Job Durfee: "Doubtless each of the Thirteen may claim to be foremost in some things; but I speak only of those first steps which manifested great daring, or were followed by great results. In what great movements, then, bearing this impress, was she the first?

"She was the first to direct her officers to disregard the Stamp Act, and to insure them indemnity for doing so.

"She was the first to recommend the permanent establishment of a Continental Congress, with a closer union among the colonies.

"She was among the first to adopt the Articles of Confederation, and, it may be added, the last to abandon them.

"She was the first to brave royalty in arms.

"Great Britain was not then here, as at Boston, with her land forces in the field, but with her marine—behind her wooden walls—on the flood; and before the casting of the three hundred and forty-two chests of tea—the East India Company's property—into the harbor of Boston, and before the Battle of Lexington, men of Newport had sunk His Majesty's armed sloop 'Liberty,' and men of Providence—after receiving and returning *with effect* the first shots fired in the Revolution—sent up the 'Gaspee' in flames.

"She was the first to enact and declare Independence.

"In May (May 4, 1776), preceding the declaration of the Fourth

of July, by the Continental Congress, the General Assembly of this State repealed the act more effectually to secure allegiance to the king, and enacted an oath of allegiance to the State, and required that all judicial process should be in the name of the State, and no longer in His Majesty's name; whereby Rhode Island, from that moment, became, and is at this day, the oldest sovereign and independent State in the western world.

"She was the first to establish a naval armament of her own; and here, on the waters of her own Narragansett, was discharged, from it, the first cannon fired in the Revolution, at any part of His Majesty's navy.

"She was the first to recommend to Congress the establishment of a Continental Navy. The recommendation was favorably received, and measures were adopted to carry it into effect; and when that navy was constructed, she gave to it its first commodore, or commander-in-chief—Esek Hopkins, of North Providence. She furnished three captains and seven lieutenants, they being more than three-quarters of the commissioned officers for the four large ships, and probably the like proportion for the four smaller craft. Under this command, the first continental fleet—the germ of our present navy—consisting of eight sail, proceeded to New Providence, surprised that place, took the forts, made prisoners of the governor and other distinguished persons, and, seizing all the cannon and military stores found there, brought them safely into port as a handsome contribution to the services of the American army. On our alliance with France, this armament gave place to the French Navy.

* * * *

"But whilst she was thus engaged in carrying war over the ocean, she was not behind her sisters in carrying it over the land. She raised two regiments at the commencement of the war—twelve hundred regular troops—she furnished her quota to the Continental line throughout the war. In addition to these, from the 16th of December, 1776, to the 16th of March, 1780, she kept three State regiments on foot, enlisted for the State or Continental service, as

occasion might require. They were received as a part of the Continental establishment, and one of them, at least, was in the Continental service under Washington."

So, too, it is the peculiar honor of Rhode Island that she gave to the Continental army, commanded by the great Virginian George Washington, the only general who served with him continuously for the eight years from the beginning to the end of the War of the Revolution, Nathanael Greene, a soldier who from the first in an especial degree enjoyed the confidence and the friendship, as he merited the respect, of the Father of his Country.

In a letter to the President of Congress, written in March, 1777, Washington says of General Greene: "This gentleman is so much in my confidence, so intimately acquainted with my ideas, with our strength and our weakness, with everything respecting the army, that I have thought it unnecessary to particularize or prescribe any certain line of duty or inquiries for him. I shall only say, from the rank he holds as an able and good officer, in the estimation of all who know him, he deserves the greatest respect, and much regard is due to his opinions in the line of his profession."

The part sustained in that war by Nathanael Greene is thus described in the well-considered words of Alexander Hamilton: "As long as the measures which conducted us safely through the first most critical stages of the war shall be remembered with approbation; as long as the enterprises of Trenton and Princeton shall be regarded as the dawns of that bright day which afterwards broke forth with such resplendent lustre; as long as the almost magic operations of the remainder of that memorable winter, distinguished not more by these events than by the extraordinary spectacle of a powerful army straitened within narrow limits by the phantom of a military force, and never permitted to transgress those limits with impunity, in which skill supplied the place of means, and disposition was the substitute for an army; as long, I say, as these operations shall continue to be the objects of curiosity and wonder, so long ought the name of Greene to be revered by a grateful country. . . . For

high as this great man stood in the estimation of his country, the whole extent of his worth was little known. The situations in which he has appeared, though such as would have measured the faculties and exhausted the resources of men who might justly challenge the epithet of great, were yet incompetent to the full display of those various, rare, and exalted endowments, with which nature only now and then decorates a favorite, as if with intention to astonish mankind. . . . It required a longer life, and still greater opportunities, to have enabled him to exhibit, in full day, the vast, I had almost said the enormous, powers of his mind."

Nor is this the only bond of union between Rhode Island and Virginia. The Commission of George III, attested by the great seal of England, authorizing an inquiry as to the participants in the burning of His Majesty's revenue schooner "Gaspee," on June 10, 1772, in the waters of Narragansett Bay, still hangs upon the walls of this building. The royal instructions to the commissioners provided that the offenders should be "arrested and delivered to the custody of the commander-in-chief of our ships in North America pursuant to such directions as we have thought fit to give for that purpose, . . . in order to the said offenders being sent to England to be tried for that offense."

It was the powers therein conferred which on March 12, 1773, caused the House of Burgesses of Virginia to pass the following resolutions:

"Be it resolved—That a Standing Committee of Correspondence and Inquiry be appointed to consist of eleven persons, to wit, the Honorable Peyton Randolph, Esquire, Robert Carter Nicholas, Richard Bland, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton, Patrick Henry, Dudley Digges, Dabney Carr, Archibald Cary and Thomas Jefferson, Esquires," . . . whose business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such Acts and Resolutions of the British Parliament or proceedings of Administration as may relate to or affect the British Colonies in America, and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies respecting these important considerations and the result of such proceedings from time to time to lay before this House.

“Resolved, That it be an instruction to the said committee that they do, without delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority on which was constituted a Court of Inquiry said to have been lately held in Rhode Island with powers to transmit persons accused of offences committed in America to places beyond the seas to be tried.”

The Committee of Correspondence thus formed was in due time succeeded by the Continental Congress, and this latter body was in time succeeded by the Congress of the United States.

Such a history is worthy of being known of all men, and it is most fitting that it should be exemplified on an occasion when the results of the settlement of this western wilderness by English speaking people are to be commemorated.

It is therefore proposed to collect and exhibit by this State such original documents illustrative of her early history as it may be found practicable to exhibit for such a purpose, and to prepare photographic or other fac-similes of such other historical documents as it may be found inexpedient to remove for the purposes of such an exhibition. Such reproductions become, of course, the property of the State and may be later used for a permanent exhibition in the Capitol, if deemed advisable, and each such fac-simile is of real and permanent value in the event of the loss or destruction of its original.

The archives of the State present much that is illustrative and much that is of interest in this regard.

In the period preceding the Revolution there are contained several letters to the colony from King George II, under the royal sign-manual, and original letters from William Pitt and other ministers and officers of the crown, as the Duke of Bedford, Lord Dartmouth, the Duke of Newcastle, the Earl of Hillsborough, George Grenville, Charles Townshend, and General Amherst.

In the Revolutionary period the State archives contain autograph letters from George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, John Hancock, Le Comte de Rochambeau, Baron Steuben, Sam Adams, John Adams, John Marshall, Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry, John Jay, Robert Morris, Richard Henry Lee, Robert R. Livingston,

Governor Benjamin Harrison, Charles Pinckney, Edmund Randolph, Henry Laurens, James Madison, James Monroe, Albert Gallatin, John Quincy Adams, Joseph Story and John C. Calhoun, and many others.

To the possessions of the State may be added contributions from historical and patriotic societies and from private citizens. To these it is intended to add portraits of such distinguished sons of Rhode Island by birth or by adoption as it may be possible to obtain, as well as exhibitions of the different issues of colonial currency and other objects of real and lasting historical interest.

Properly to care for and to exhibit these a State building is required.

In July last a visit was made to the exposition grounds and a site for a building was provisionally selected, which site has been assigned to this State by the exposition authorities. The location comprises a corner lot, and the other States in the group with Rhode Island are New York, Connecticut, Vermont, and Maine. After a consultation in Providence with the supervising architect of the exposition, it has been provisionally determined that the Rhode Island State Building should be modelled upon the exterior lines of the State House at Newport, from whose ancient balcony the death of George II and the accession of George III were announced. There, too, the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed; and there for more than a hundred years was proclaimed the result of the election of governor and general officers of the State by the free electors thereof. While some changes are necessary in the interior of the first story for the purposes of a State building, yet the senate chamber and the hall of the house of representatives are appropriate for such an historical exhibition as is here briefly outlined.

It is the desire and expectation of the exposition authorities, acting in conjunction with the appropriate authorities of the federal government, to collect at Hampton Roads the most complete exhibition of our own and of foreign navies ever assembled at one time in our history. This feature is of special interest to the people of this State. From the earliest times the sea contributed largely to the

wealth and the influence of this colony, until, in the words of the latest writer of our history, there was created "that Newport which throughout the three decades just preceding the Revolution surpassed New York for trade and quite eclipsed Boston for culture." Nor did her connection with the sea cease with the Revolution. We have already seen that Commodore Esek Hopkins of Rhode Island was the first commander of the American Navy. Oliver Hazard Perry's victory in the War of 1812 needs not here to be retold. Commodore Matthew C. Perry of Rhode Island was in command of the squadron which first opened Japan to the civilized world. In our own day cup defenders are still being successfully built at Bristol, and we are not without reason for believing that the latest type of modern battleship, the "Rhode Island," may be assigned to duty at Hampton Roads during a portion of the time of the exposition, including September 10, 1907, the anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie, which has already been assigned by the exposition authorities as the State of Rhode Island Day. It is to be hoped that it may be found practicable to prepare and exhibit models of some of these earlier and later types of naval construction.

It should be added that provision will be made for exhibitors from this State, as well as for those from other States, who may desire to make industrial exhibits.

The last Congress made an appropriation of \$250,000 for the naval and military representation of the United States on this occasion.

In advocating a further appropriation by congress for this purpose President Roosevelt in his last message speaks as follows: "I again heartily commend to your favorable consideration the ter-centennial celebration of the settlement at Jamestown, Va. Appreciating the desirability of this commemoration, the Congress passed an act March 3, 1905, authorizing in the year 1907, on and near the waters of Hampton Roads, in the State of Virginia, an international naval, marine, and military celebration in honor of this event. By the authority vested in me by this act I have made proclamation of said celebration, and have issued, in conformity with its instructions,

invitations to all the nations of the earth to participate, by sending their naval vessels and such military organizations as may be practicable. This celebration would fail of its full purpose unless it were enduring in its results and commensurate with the importance of the event to be celebrated, the event from which our nation dates its birth. I earnestly hope that this celebration, already endorsed by the Congress of the United States, and by the legislatures of sixteen States since the action of the Congress, will receive such additional aid at your hands as will make it worthy of the great event it is intended to celebrate, and thereby enable the Government of the United States to make provision for the exhibition of its own resources, and likewise enable our people who have undertaken the work of such a celebration to provide suitable and proper entertainment and instruction in the historic events of our country for all who may visit the exposition and to whom we have tendered our hospitality."

The following communication from the exposition authorities indicates the action which foreign governments have hitherto taken:

"NORFOLK, VA., December 28, 1905.

"GEORGE N. KINGSBURY, Esq.,

"Executive Commissioner Jamestown Ter-centennial Commission,

"Post Office Box 866, Providence, R. I.

"DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your favor of the 26th, and the contents have been carefully noted. In reply to your query for information in reference to Mr. Tucker's sojourn in Europe and what he has accomplished up to this time, I desire to say that England has accepted the invitation extended to them by President Roosevelt through the State Department, and will send a representative fleet of her navy, together with a corps representing each arm of the military service. It is more than probable that Field-Marshal Earl Roberts, E. C. K. G., etc., Great Britain's Commander-in-Chief, will be in charge of the military. France has also accepted the invitation extended, and will be represented by both her navy and army. At Berlin Mr. Tucker was received enthusiastically, and has not only the promise of the government officials to have their co-operation, but the German Emperor expressed his personal interest in the matter and suggested to Mr. Tucker the idea of having the Royal Yacht Club at Kiel partici-

pate in the event, that other countries would participate in this aquatic sport. From Berlin Mr. Tucker proceeded to Vienna, where he found that according to an organic law of the Austrian Empire troops can not be sent away from the country except in times of war; hence Austria will not be represented by soldiery, but her navy will be in Hampton Roads in 1907. Numbers of its yacht clubs will take part, following the lead of the Royal Yacht Club at Kiel. From Austria Mr. Tucker proceeded to Rome, where he found both the Sovereign of Italy and the Sovereign Head of the Catholic Church equally eager to accept the invitation extended by the United States Government and seconded by him. From Italy we will have a complete representation of the government and the Vatican will send some of its choicest treasures and antiques for exhibit purposes. Mr. Tucker will go from Italy to Paris, then to Spain, then to Portugal, thence home.

"In reference to the Japanese participation, I desire to say that the Japanese minister was visited by Mr. Tucker prior to his sailing, in reference to his country's participation in our great celebration, and he has the matter at heart and is thoroughly imbued with the idea that his country should be represented in a proper and fitting manner. Two weeks ago, while in Washington, we visited the Japanese Legation, but found that the minister had sailed for Japan a few days prior. We asked his secretary to communicate with the minister at once, requesting that Admiral Togo's visit in Europe and this country be deferred until 1907. We have also made the same request through the State Department, asking them to use their best efforts in not only having Admiral Togo's visit deferred until 1907, but also that Field-Marshal Oyama accompany him, together with a branch of their military service. With subsequent information received from prominent Japanese officials in this country we have every reason to believe that our request will be complied with.

"I trust that this will cover the information you requested along these lines, and extending to you the compliments of the season, I beg to remain,

"Yours very truly,

"C. BROOKS JOHNSTON,

"Chairman, Board of Governors."

We are advised that the State of Virginia has already appropriated \$200,000, the State of New York \$150,000, and the State of Pennsylvania \$100,000, therefor, and other States have made appropriations in lesser amounts.

The experience of other expositions has demonstrated that Rhode Island has been worthily represented, and represented in a manner

in keeping both with the importance of the event and with the dignity of the State, at a fraction of the expense above named, and these appropriations are here mentioned only as evidence of the interest elsewhere felt in the success of the proposed undertaking. Inasmuch as the exposition is not to be held until May, 1907, certain items of expense, such as the amount which it may be thought desirable to appropriate for the proper representation of the State at the opening of the exposition and for Rhode Island Day, wisely may be left to be determined by the next General Assembly. Other items of expense can not be determined until the building is completed and the exhibits are located therein, such, for instance, as the care and maintenance of the State building, including the care of the exhibit and other incidental house expenses. Then too will be better known the ultimate cost of freight and insurance of exhibits, and the cost of preparing them. The immediate need is an appropriation for a building and the incidental office and other expenses connected therewith, and this matter can not be determined too soon, inasmuch as after an appropriation has been made some months must elapse before working-drawings and specifications can be prepared and contracts awarded. It is estimated that the sum of \$35,000 will suffice for the requirements of the present fiscal year, this estimate being based upon the assumption that whatever sum may be thought desirable by the next General Assembly to complete the work should be by it made available by February 1, 1907, since it is hoped that the proposed building will be completed by that date.

JOHN TAGGARD BLODGETT,
WILLIAM PAINE SHEFFIELD, JR.,
DENNIS H. SHEAHAN.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., January 16th, 1906.

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